The Member, in conclusion, requested that the matter might engage the careful attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation will be referred to the Chief Engineer and, on receipt of his report, necessary action will be taken with due regard to the urgency of this road.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(3) Medical Relief.

68. Mundakayam Hospital and opiates for the use of Estates.

Mr. E. Vincent (Member, the Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that the need for a hospital in Mundakayam was a very urgent one. In the Mundakayam district, there was a floating population of about 15,000 apart from the town of Mundakayam and its outlying villages of Kutikal, Peruvanthanom, etc. The nearest hospital was at Kanjirapalli, 12 miles distant. In Mundakayam itself, there was a District Dispensary with a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge. The Estate coolies and the local inhabitants could obtain medical relief there, but it was obvious that, without accommodation, the Medical Officers in charge could only treat simple cases, in fact only out-patients. The planting community took the matter of medical relief in hand some years back with the result that there were at present ten fully equipped hospitals in charge of properly qualified Apothecaries for the care and treatment of Estate labour. The local inhabitants, finding it impossible to get into the Government hospital at Kanjirapalli, applied for relief to Estate hospitals and got admission there invariably. Yearly, thousands of coolies were passing through Mundakayam on their way to, and from, planting districts and they received free treatment from Estate hospitals, if they fell ill on the way. In the Mundakayam district alone, the planters would be spending about thirty to forty thousand rupees in 1917 for medical relief. The fact that so many of His Highness' subjects were being treated in the Estate hospitals should surely merit some help from the Government, since the Government were relieved of such a big burden. A few years ago, there was a scheme suggested to build a new Travellers' Bungalow at Mundakayam and convert the present Travellers' Bungalow into a hospital. Perhaps, the scheme fell through on account of financial stringency. But the Member said that a grant-in-aid for the Estate hospitals, or, at least the conversion of the dispensary into a hospital, was a desirable measure and that the Darbar Physician favoured some such relief being granted to the planters.

As regards opiates, the Member said that the issue at stake was the importation of opium and its compounds into the country for medicinal purposes. The importer had first to obtain a British export permit from the Resident and he had then to make an application to the Excise Department for an import permit. The British permit would ordinarily be for a period of one month and his experience was that, before the import permit was obtained from the Excise Department, the period prescribed in the export permit oftentimes expired. To avoid such inconvenience, the Member suggested that arrangements might be made for permits being issued by local Magistrates or that a stock of opiates might be kept in the Government dispensaries and stores. The importation was entirely for medicinal purposes. There could be no objection to guarantees being given to that effect. The Member hoped that the state of affairs complained of by him would soon be remedied by the Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Excise Commissioner will be asked to expedite the issue of import permits. The suggestion to authorise Magistrates to issue such permits does not appear to be feasible. The Member's suggestions about medical relief for Mundakayam will be referred to the Darbar Physician.

(2) Other Industries—(*continued*).

69. Suggestions for the development of Industries in Travancore.

Mr. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) began by saying that the system of imparting education in schools was not conducive to the betterment of

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the material condition of the people. There was a large army of young men who had secured School Leaving certificates both from the English and Vernacular Schools whose only occupation was to hunt after appointments in the Government service. But it was regrettable that the system of education they had received utterly unfitted them for the clerical line. For, it required a knowledge of accountancy or survey which was also deemed essential and which they did not possess. To make matters worse, those young men, by the manner in which they had been drilled in school, had also acquired new habits which made them yearn for what might be conveniently termed "unnecessaries" of life. They had come to entertain utter contempt for the noble profession of farming, which their forefathers followed to their own profit, and they regarded ploughing and other agricultural operations with scorn. Thus saturated with false ideas of education and blinded by unreasoning prejudice against their ancestral occupations, they had become a burden to the State and the society at large. It was good that the Government had also realized the situation as was evident from the Dewan's Address to the Members. The only remedy against the evil was the development of the industries. The people were thankful to Government for having sanctioned an Industrial Survey, in response to several representations made before. But, if the fruits of the Industrial Survey should be enjoyed by the people, that should be preceded by an Economic Survey. What the country first needed was a careful survey of their material wealth and the various channels of augmenting that wealth. The Government ought to have expert advice on those matters. At the same time, if that expert advice were wrongly given, there would be grave danger. The scheme of water supply to Trivandrum, Punalur Paper Mills and the Shertallai canal were cited as examples in support of his statement. There were five factors to be considered in a programme of industrial development.

The first and the foremost was the question of *raw materials which were available* both in land and water. From the sea, backwaters and rivers could be obtained fish, shells, pearls, corals, &c., which could be converted into finished articles. Fish could be utilized not only as food but also for oils of different kinds and manure. Shank shells were now being exported to other countries. They could easily be used for bangles which could be made in the country. There were several articles in the land which the hand of the industrialist could turn to good purpose. In that matter, the co-operation of the Agricultural Department would be very valuable. Next to food, what man required was clothing. The people were importing textile fabrics every year to the value of Rs. 35 lakhs. In the opinion of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, cotton could be very profitably grown in certain parts of the State. When the price of textile fabrics had gone tremendously high, as at present, due to the War, the people were being put to great difficulties. To avoid such a contingency, it would be well if arrangements were made with the Agricultural Department to grow cotton. Again, as several industries could be started with such products of the forests as timber, rubber, resins, horns, bones, flowers, grasses, plants, fruits, fibres, lac, &c., those articles should be ordered to be conserved and developed by the Forest Department.

The second factor was *skill*. To carry on industries the essential requirement was technical learning. The young men who were turned out of the present-day schools were entirely useless in such small matters as preparing a design for a house, repairing a watch out of order, or driving a motor vehicle. To enable them to attend to such practical things in life, a Technical Institute ought to be started. As a temporary measure, instruction in such subjects as Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, etc., might be ordered to be given in Elementary Schools from the Fourth Class and in Secondary Schools, lessons being given both in theory and practice. In those institutions, there should be provision to demonstrate to the people some select industries. There should be an examination held in the Central Technical Institute and certificates awarded to the successful students who should, thereafter, be engaged as teachers in the Elementary Schools. Gradually, industrial institutions should be established in each taluk for starting factory industries requiring technical skill of a high order. Capable youths who were natives of the State, ought to be sent out to foreign countries on

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scholarship. At that stage, some industries should be started on the joint responsibility of the Government and the people. The scheme explained above could be carried into effect by taking up the School of Arts and developing it. About Rs. 20,000 was being spent on that institution. Even if it were reformed and worked on improved lines, it might not require a big allotment; and even if that was necessary, no one ought to grudge it, as the result would be for the benefit of the people.

The third factor was *capital*. There were in the State rich people who could afford to invest sums varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 50,000 on industries. But they had no adventurous spirit in them and were extremely diffident of taking any initiative themselves. If they could be convinced of the lucrative character of any industrial concerns, they would be glad to come forward. Further, that spirit of mutual trust and confidence which was so highly necessary for undertaking and managing Joint Stock Companies was also absent among them. It would, no doubt, grow and pervade over a larger and wider circle with the increase in the number of Co-operative Societies which were being started. But till then, Government should give them substantial help by taking shares in Companies that might be started and offer encouragement in other ways. Industrial Banks should also be established in several localities.

The fourth factor dealt with by the Member was *labour*. He divided it into (1) manual labour and (2) machine labour. There was at present plenty of manual labour in the land. But the advance made in education had been making manual labour scarce and encouraging machine labour. On account of the growing decrease in the out-put of manual labour, it was necessary to offer better encouragement to machine labour, because it was by doing so that people in several foreign countries had prospered. One point deserving of notice was that, for public works, foreign labour was being engaged, when native labour was available. Natives unable to get work were compelled to work under European planters and subject themselves to all the sufferings and hardships in the estates on the hills. Printing, book-binding and similar work should not be given to foreigners. The policy of giving large contracts to foreigners should be stopped. The artisan class should be encouraged. They were generally intelligent people and, with some training, could easily follow scientific instruction in such branches as steel work, carving, wood-work, &c., &c. The idea that certain pieces of work should be done only by particular classes of people should be rooted out. A higher sense of the dignity of labour should be created.

Coming to the last factor of industrial development, *viz.*, *market*, the Member said that the most important point was to find out a market whence raw materials could be purchased at cheap rates and whither the finished articles could be taken. Commercial training was necessary to find out the market. It was necessary for that purpose that the sea-ports should be developed and all shipping facilities afforded. The Port Officer should be instructed to acquaint the people with the existing condition of the markets of the world. The Member suggested the holding of Industrial Exhibitions and the raising of the duty on the export of raw materials. He then laid stress on the fact of the volume of exports being larger than imports and observed that that was not a healthy sign of the commercial prosperity of any country. He then enumerated the following as industries which could be started or were capable of development:—

(1) Under oil, manufacture of soap, candles, butter, etc.

(2) Under punnac, the manufacture of biscuit, its use as manure, etc., etc.

(3) Under coir, the manufacture of coir-matting, rugs, etc., etc.

(4) Under sugar, the cultivation of sugar-cane, preparation of jaggery, conversion of arrow-root into flour, use of bye-products from the manufacture of sugar for several purposes.

(5) Under weaving, the manufacture of lace, embroidery, sewing, etc., etc.

(6) Under flour, conversion of tapioca, banana, sago, roots of several other similar produce from the land.

(7) Manufacture of salt and tobacco.

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(8) Under timber, making of different articles of furniture, distillation of oil from certain kinds of wood, such as sandal wood.

(9) Under fibres, making of fibres from plantain, palmyra, hemp, aloes, cotton, etc. and the manufacture of brushes, jamakals, &c.

(10) Under dyes, several articles of minor forest produce were mentioned.

(11) Under fruits, pine-apple, cashew-nut, &c., were mentioned as raw products from which jam, jelly, etc., could be made as also a kind of sweet drink.

(12) Under metallic industry, the manufacture of lead-pencils, pen-holders, etc.

The State Geologist should be instructed to make a careful survey as to the existence of iron, copper and other metallic ores which played such an important part in the daily needs of the people.

(13) Under medicine, dried ginger, *nuxvomica*, etc., were mentioned as articles from which ordinary drugs could be made.

(14) Under paper, the use of reeds, several soft woods, rags, etc., was mentioned, especially now when it was not possible to get down paper from Europe.

(15) Manufacture of fire-match for which there were excellent facilities and which was in daily use both by prince and peasant.

Mr. K. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) in his preliminary observations thanked the Government for the appointment of an officer to conduct the Industrial Survey of the State. He then pressed the following points as requiring early attention:—

(1) Completion of the Industrial Survey as early as possible in view to definite action being taken to start industries, when favourable conditions prevailed in consequence of the war in Europe.

(2) The appointment of a Committee of Officials and Non-officials to help Dr. Barker in his investigations.

(3) The establishment of an Industrial Bank to finance industries.

(4) The spread of Technical and Industrial education with a Central Institute and branches in the moffusil. The Member referred in complimentary terms to the recently introduced scheme by which industrial classes had been opened in six Elementary Schools and asked for the extension of the scheme to all Lower Grade and Higher Grade Secondary Schools of the State.

(5) The institution of foreign scholarships and their award to young men who had a taste for particular lines of business.

(6) The starting of pioneer industries by Government.

(7) The establishment of a separate Department of Industries and Commerce.

(8) Development of Scientific Agriculture on a greater and larger scale.

(9) Development of fish industry.

(10) Manufacture of jaggery.

(11) Conversion of forest produce into several articles of practical utility.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel taluk) in traversing the same ground as that covered by Mr. K. Govinda Pillai, Member, Mavelikara taluk, spoke in detail about the necessity of manufacturing all the salt required for local consumption and encouraging that industry so as to obviate the need for importing salt from Bombay. 302 acres of land under salt had produced 4,76,972 *maunds* of salt and the quantity imported for home consumption was 4,24,226 *maunds*. So, it was not difficult to

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get the imported quantity also from the State, if ample facilities were afforded. The yield from local *allams* would be more, if the owners were given a small increase in their *kudivarom*. He also submitted that the contract for the transport of salt should be given to the natives.

The Member next suggested that the Government should make arrangements to charter two steamers to provide greater facilities the import of salt, paddy, &c.

Dewan.—The Government have already taken steps to engage some vessels. But the difficulty is that steamers are not available under the war conditions at present.

In conclusion, the Member proposed that a competent European should be appointed for a definite period to start some specific industries and demonstrate them to the people and thus goad them on to action.

The Assembly adjourned at 4–55 P. M.

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